

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY  
PUBLIC WORKSHOP  
MARKLEEVILLE, CA  
MARCH 22, 2007

PROGRAM GUIDELINES  
QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

1. In saying that SNC will spread funds across areas equally, do you mean program areas or geographical areas?
2. If there seems to be less of a demand for money in a given program area, might that not be just the way it is, or will SNC still try to spread the money equitably over all program areas anyway?
3. **Regarding Program Guidelines, page 16, "Project Evaluation": The first paragraph in "Submission" says, "Staff will next begin to consult...". "May" allows flexibility, may reduce overhead.**
4. We want art promoted as a tourism draw. This should be an economic goal.
5. **Want discussions regarding small revolving loan funds for tourism.** For example, SNC gives a grant to an entity, and then the entity makes small loans that are repaid to the entity. **SNC would be providing the seed money.**
6. **Extra incentives for volunteers (training, food, etc.) or opportunities for student interns (high school/college) would benefit groups/community/tribes/youth. This is part of capacity building.**
7. Has any thought been given to subregional priorities? Knowing what they are could help applicants develop projects that address them, rather than submitting blindly. That is also capacity building (building community within the subregion).
8. **Regarding "region-wide significance": Consider training for land use planners in regards to affordable housing, low-impact development practices, new urbanism, etc.**
9. Regarding tribal tourism, the Washoe are not prepared/trained to provide tribal/cultural experiences. This could be an economic development strategy and also an opportunity to partner with others.
10. Does SNC foresee having staff facilitate putting priorities together? Action planning for example?
11. Fuels reduction is a huge concern. Biomass utilization is a hot topic; we may need some help to get started.
12. Have concerns regarding watershed issues. **The Washoe harvest willow for baskets**, and roadside contamination is an issue that affects willows. We are trying to get the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) and Alpine County to stop spraying. The issue is the "gardening" for quality/type of willows. Accessibility is also an issue. We

- need to harvest before budding. **This touches on a number of program areas (cultural resources, economic development, tourism/recreation).**
13. Eagles come to the Carson Valley because of the agriculture (good hunting). It is so important to preserve open space/pastureland for both that and the preservation of the agricultural lifestyle, etc. **The guidelines should incorporate environmental education on best management practices, such as fencing cattle out of water, etc.** I am trying to find a rancher who would like to do a demonstration project along those lines.

### GRANT GUIDELINES QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

1. **Regarding geographic distribution: Seventeen million dollars divided by six subregions, that's not huge.** And seventeen million divided by the number of counties in the region is quite small. **Will there be equitable distribution among the counties?**
2. **Is SNC looking more at a collaborative approach? Will there be extra points for collaboration? Can you use other State funds as a dollar match?**
3. **Will SNC consider project applications that want to use SNC money as a match to Federal money (leveraging)?** For example, a project on the Walker River for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) fishing access.
4. How will SNC sort out applications from various groups?
5. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance is tough to do in Alpine County. We have a small staff and not enough money. **Having funding available would be good for CEQA compliance and general planning work.**
6. The challenge sometimes is the supporting studies for environmental documentation; they cost a lot of money. Small, rural counties especially could use this assistance.
7. The Washoe have an interest in supporting study assistance due to cultural resources. These have never been properly inventoried and we also need money for that.
8. The guidelines look a lot like those for Prop. 40. **People are looking to get funds for projects Prop. 40 couldn't fund. Could they get radios, equipment, water storage tanks, etc.? How far can SNC go with fire and emergency medical services?** Have to have water quality nexus?
9. Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOGs) are discretionary. Is SNC able to fund the technical feasibility of broadband? Could you tie that in with economic development and tourism/recreation?
10. It is fair to say the broadband project has a tenuous connection to Prop. 84?
11. **Regarding acquisition: Is a SOG ok to be used for mitigation/buying an easement, etc.?**

12. A SOG could also be used for a project that needs just a few extra dollars.
13. **A lot of grants are on a reimbursable basis. Is that how this works?** The county is now three hundred to four hundred thousand dollars in arrears on grants.
14. Planning grants are always a good tool. For small communities that is the only way to develop an application for a larger project.
15. How creative or “out-of-the-box” will SNC think about projects? The CALFED application allows for creativity.
16. **Have a concern in regards to water storage and wastewater management, particularly as second homes become year round. Many houses are on old septic systems. Have related concerns regarding water quality.**
17. **SNC could support the planning and assessment needed to submit a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development grant application for infrastructure relative to an aging wastewater system?**
18. Is SNC working with the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) process? This is another potential funding source, but to qualify projects need to be included in the IRWMP. Consider this on subsequent applications?
19. **It would be very helpful to get assistance with writing big grant applications. It’s an expensive process.**
20. Has SNC considered having grant workshops in the subregions? There will be lots of work after grant awards with reporting, etc.
21. **Will applications be online? SNC should consider a “text only” version (without graphics) that would be dial-up friendly.**
22. **Can SNC check on other entities who also have Prop. 84 funds?**

#### OTHER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

1. **There are three local issues/projects I am interested in getting help with.**
  - **Markleeville has quite a cottage industry with on-line sales, primarily by artists. A problem with this is that there is no high-speed internet.** We are working with Sierra Business Council (SBC) on this now.
  - County acquisition of a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) site that is a potential park. Issues include the need to remove a rock wall and maybe put in some parking.
  - A potential bike trail from Markleeville to Grover Hot Springs, this one has issues with property ownership.
2. **Comments from a Washoe Tribe representative:**
  - a. **The Washoe Tribe is interested in collaborating with Alpine County on high-speed internet.** Many homes in the Washoe community don’t have computers. We have tried getting high-speed internet in the past, the technology is available. **A potential study of what is technologically needed would be good.** The

Washoe own some mountain peaks and would assist with making those available for use for this purpose.

- b. The Washoe represent the only real low-income housing area in the county and **we are also vulnerable in regards to fire and emergency services. The firehouse is un-staffed and has no vehicles. We have an all-volunteer emergency services program. We could use a lot of equipment/training stipends.**

Approximately 350 people, half of the East slope population, are Washoe. We need to work together with the county. Volunteers are wearing out and we may not be able to depend on Douglas County.

- c. There is an active environmental department in the tribe, they would have projects.
- d. We also have a grants office and are willing to work collaboratively.

**e. Is this one-time money?**

- 3. **The unavailability of affordable housing is an issue.** It affects school enrollment/employment. If the population keeps decreasing, schools may not be viable.
- 4. What are we doing with our children in Alpine County? Where are they going to live? Will we have to bus them out of the county for school?
- 5. **There is no cell phone service on the East side.**
- 6. Regarding Program Guidelines: Relative to local general plans, the biggest impact in Alpine County comes from development pressure on private land.
- 7. The old Woodfords School on Highway 88 could be a good site for a cultural center, and a good joint project.
- 8. In the town of North Fork (Southern Sierra Subregion), the Sierra-Mono Museum could be a good model for a cultural center. It was built by volunteers. The Washoe have land for a cultural center already.
- 9. Markleeville Creek water samples show contamination. Failing septic systems are a huge possibility, livestock also. Individuals may not have money to invest in this issue. Sometimes the community median income may be too high to get grants. Local staff are only allocated sixteen hours per month to work on the wastewater plant.
- 10. The Washoe were able to get a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) due to the income level of people in Markleeville cabins.
- 11. These guidelines are a benefit of Prop. 84. I am the local watershed coordinator in charge of five watersheds. It is difficult to do more work in the less populated areas. This leads to funding differentials subregionally. Not going into those areas could lead to information gaps.
- 12. This isn't a plan to be limited to the next two to three years. The money could increase. Don't limit your project view too much now.

13. There is the potential to acquire Wade Valley before it becomes a golf course and other land that used to belong to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), now private, that divides the Washoe community. This is a fire safety issue for the Washoe, egress is a problem.
14. After your current workshop tour, will you provide a synopsis of what happened during all of the meetings?
15. Are you concerned about our expectations?
16. Referring to question #12 in Program Guidelines: The Washoe should find out what CalTrans has in place; one reason they spray is because of invasive weeds.
17. **The Washoe tribe also harvests spring onion**, which grows near water. Diamond Valley (private land) is a prime spot, but it is irrigated with treated sewer water.
18. Maybe the Washoe could develop a memorandum with the landowner regarding access to Diamond Valley.

#### SUBREGIONAL ISSUES RAISED

1. Cultural resources
  - Botanical resources
2. Working landscapes
3. Public access
4. Volunteer/internship opportunities
5. Economic development
  - Information technology
  - Affordable housing
6. Water
  - Water storage
  - Wastewater management
  - Water quality
7. CEQA/NEPA compliance
8. Tourism and recreation
  - Tribal tourism
  - Art-related tourism
9. Reduction of the risk of natural disasters
  - Fire and emergency services training and equipment
  - Lack of cell phone service
  - Fuels reduction
10. Wildlife habitat